

OPC Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • NOVEMBER 2006

Politkovskaya's Murder Triggers World Outrage *OPC Decries Journalist Killings in Russia*

By Larry Martz

Even after her brutal murder, Anna Politkovskaya remained bigger than life. The killing of Russia's boldest and best-known journalist spurred a wave of sorrow and outrage around the world. Her fearless reporting of the war in Chechnya had won her the trust of her countrymen, the enmity of her government and many international honors—the first of which was the OPC's inaugural Artyom Borovik award in 2000, given each year to a Russian journalist for courage, aggressive reporting and independent thought. Politkovskaya's refusal to be silenced likely led to her assassination on October 7, when she was shot at point blank range in her Moscow apartment building. She was 48.

Politkovskaya set an all but impossible standard for the dwindling number of investigative journalists in Russia. The central theme of her reporting was the human suffering of Chechens trapped in Moscow's brutal repression of the Muslim region's rebellion. Often in disguise to evade the ban on coverage of the conflict, she would sneak into Chechnya and do hundreds of interviews, staying with a different friend every night. She wrote of torture, official corruption, kidnappings and the casual execution of terrorist suspects; she reported that Russian soldiers sold weapons to the terrorists



Anna Politkovskaya's funeral at the Troyekurovskoye Cemetery in Moscow

they were fighting, and also sold the bodies of rebels to their families so that they could be given Islamic funerals.

"The Army and police, nearly 100,000 strong, wander around Chechnya in a state of complete moral decay," she wrote. "And what response could one expect but more terrorism, and the recruitment of new resistance fighters?"

Politkovskaya had few qualms about becoming part of the story she was covering. She once negotiated safe passage for dozens of elderly civilians trapped in the Chechen capital, Grozny. And when Chechen rebels seized a Moscow theater in the middle of a performance in 2002, she was the only Russian citizen the hostage takers would accept as a negotiator.

Her fierce criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin's policies in Chechnya drew death threats, official denunciation and international celebrity. In 2004, while flying to cover

the Chechen siege of a public school in Beslan, Politkovskaya was given what she said was a poisoned glass of tea. She passed out and had to be hospitalized, but survived.

Undeterred by the threats and the growing media repression that has reduced most Russian journalists to self-censorship, Politkovskaya kept writing. One book, "A Small Corner of Hell," amplified her dispatches from Chechnya. In another, "Putin's Russia"—published abroad, but not in Russia—she wrote of the president, "I dislike him for...his cynicism, for his racism, for his lies...for the massacre of the innocents that went on throughout his first term as president." Most recently, she was working on a new story with photos and videotape documenting torture in Chechnya.

It would be her last. Politkovskaya was killed as she was returning home after a shopping trip. The assassin
(Continued on Page 10)

Inside. . .

Forest Whitaker Speaks to the OPC.....	2
OPC November Events.....	3
Lawrence Wright on Al Qaeda.....	4
People.....	5
In Memory.....	8
David Friend on 9/11 Images.....	10
New Books.....	12

After Film, Whitaker Speaks with OPC

OPC EVENT RECAP

After an Oct. 12 special OPC screening of his new film, "The Last King of Scotland," Forest Whitaker answered questions with a low-key, unassuming demeanor. In his role as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, Whitaker is alternatively charming, witty, sinister, brutal and above all a force of personality—he dominates the screen and is anything but low-key. I am sure that if you took a poll the night of the screening, the OPC audience would have given Whitaker the Academy Award on the spot.

When the film was done and the credits were rolling across the screen, I went out into the entryway to be sure that Forest was on hand. His performance was so powerful that when we were introduced, I was still shaking. I told him, "I am not sure I can meet you right now." It felt as if I were shaking hands with the monster Idi Amin. He portrayed Amin's character so realistically that I could not separate the two that quickly.

In his Q&A session, Whitaker said that filming in Uganda was particularly



Forest Whitaker chats with the OPC



Whitaker as Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland"

poignant because the crowds of people were both frightened and in awe of seeing a recreation of Idi Amin in their midst. It added a level of legitimacy to the film that could not have been attained, say in South Africa.

The film covers how Idi Amin was put in power by the British, but Whitaker took that a step further and explained how Amin was the darling of the British military.

Amin joined the King's African Rifles and worked his way up from laundry and

kitchen duty to the rank of *effendi* (warrant officer), the highest rank possible for a Black African serving in the colonial British Army.

Maggie Murphy, executive editor of *Life*, organized the screening by Fox Searchlight Pictures and led the discussion with Whitaker. For those of you who missed the OPC screening of this powerful movie, I highly recommend that you put "The Last King of Scotland" on your Must-See List.

—Sonya Fry

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA • BOARD OF GOVERNORS

PRESIDENT

Marshall Loeb
Senior Correspondent
& Columnist
MarketWatch from Dow Jones

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Dorinda Elliott
Deputy Editor, Special Projects
Conde Nast Traveler

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Allan Dodds Frank
Reporter
Bloomberg Television

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

Jane Ciabattari
Author/Journalist

TREASURER

Marcy McGinnis
Freelance Journalist

SECRETARY

Jacqueline Albert-Simon
US Bureau Chief
Politique Internationale

ACTIVE BOARD

Marcus Brauchli
Global News Editor
The Wall Street Journal

Angela Burt-Murray
Editor in Chief
Essence Magazine

Roger Cohen
International Writer at Large
The New York Times

Robert Dowling
Assistant Managing Editor
BusinessWeek

Frederick Kempe
President & CEO
The Atlantic Council

Jim Laurie
Director
FocusAsia Productions
Hong Kong

Marcus Mabry
Chief of Correspondents
Newsweek

John R. MacArthur
Publisher
Harper's Magazine

Kevin McDermott
Managing Partner
Collective Intelligence

James O'Shea
Managing Editor
Chicago Tribune

Kathy Ryan
Photo Editor
The New York Times Magazine

Michael Serrill
Senior Editor
Bloomberg Markets

Sree Sreenivasan
Dean of Students and Professor
Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

ACTIVE ALTERNATES

Maggie Murphy
Executive Editor
Life

Richard Levine
Managing Director/
Editorial Operations
Conde Nast Publications

Robert Teitelman
Editor in Chief
The Deal

ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Charters
Chairman, Off-the-Record
Foreign Policy Association

Yvonne Dunleavy
Author/Journalist

Kathleen Hunt
United Nations Representative
Care International

ASSOCIATE ALTERNATE

David Fondiller
Director of Marketing
Marakon Associates

PAST PRESIDENTS EX-OFFICIO

John Corporon
Alexis Gelber
William J. Holstein
Larry Martz
Barrett McGurn
Jack Raymond
Roy Rowan
Leonard Saffir
Larry Smith
Richard B. Stolley

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sonya K. Fry

EDITOR

Doug Merlino

OPC Bulletin
ISSN-0738-7202
Copyright © 2002
Overseas Press Club
of America

40 West 45 Street, New York, NY 10036 USA • Phone: (212) 626-9220 • Fax: (212) 626-9210 • Website: opc.ofamerica.org

OPC November Events Highlight Economics

Stiglitz Takes on Globalization

NOVEMBER 1

Economic globalization may be one of the most important issues of the current era, yet it is misunderstood and, in some quarters, feared. When first introduced, globalization was meant to be a great equalizer. Goods would flow easily across borders. Standards of living in poor countries would be raised. Governments would become more stable.

But today, globalization is often associated with violent protests, an even greater economic disparity between first and third-world nations, and a complex trade regime that doesn't seem to benefit anyone outside of rich countries. Globalization is blamed for environmental damage and downward wage pressure not just on Americans, but also on other peoples around the world.



Joe Stiglitz

DAN DIETZ

What went wrong? Joseph E. Stiglitz, who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Clinton, chief economist of the World Bank and a Nobel Prize winner, will address the controversy surrounding globalization on Wednesday, November 1 at Club Quarters, beginning at 5:30pm. He will be hosted by former OPC President William J. Holstein, who will engage Stiglitz in what promises to be a lively conversation. Stiglitz's new book is called "Making Globalization Work" [New York: W. W. Norton & Company]. He is currently a professor at Columbia University.

Stiglitz believes that global economic institutions (the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund), multinational corporations and first-world governments have shaped globalization for their own gain, at the expense of most of the planet's population and the environment. "This book is as much about how politics has been used to shape the economic system as it is about economics itself,"

NOBEL PRIZE-WINNING AUTHOR OF
GLOBALIZATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

MAKING GLOBALIZATION WORK

JOSEPH E.
STIGLITZ



Stiglitz writes. "There are strong incentives—and enormous opportunities—to shape political processes and the economic system in ways that generate profits for some at the expense of the many."

Panel Investigates the 'Irish Miracle'

NOVEMBER 13

Long depressed, deprived and downtrodden, Ireland rather suddenly has become a fast-track economy with jobs and opportunity galore, largely in high tech. Agriculture, once the key sector, is now dwarfed by sophisticated industry and services. Growth in the "Celtic Tiger" has been averaging a robust 7% a year over the past decade. Per Capita GDP is 10 percent above the four big European economies, and the second highest in the EU after Luxembourg.

A group of savvy panelists will look at this incredible economic model and talk about how the Irish economy surged so quickly and whether or not it is sustainable. What are the challenges ahead for business and government, and what can other countries learn from the Irish Economic Miracle?

The panel will convene on Monday, November 13 at 6:15pm in Club Quarters. A reception starting at 5:30pm will precede the discussion. OPC President

Marshall Loeb will moderate. Marshall is a senior columnist for MarketWatch from Dow Jones and was formerly editor of *Fortune*, *Money* and the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

The four panelists are Nuala O'Faolain, author and columnist for the *Irish Sunday Tribune*. She has worked as a producer with the BBC in London and Northern Ireland. She is an accomplished novelist, teacher and radio producer. She divides her time between County Clare and New York City. Ted Smyth is Senior Vice President of the Heinz Company, and has also spent 15 years in the diplomatic service of Ireland serving in Geneva, Portugal, Washington, DC and London. From 1985 to 1988 Ted was Press Secretary for the Irish government in the United Kingdom. Denis Staunton is the Washington correspondent for *The Irish Times*. From 2000 to 2005 he was the paper's European correspondent based in Brussels and from 1990 to 2000 he was based in Berlin reporting on Germany for *The Observer* and later for



The Irish Times. Breandan O'Caollai is a new Deputy Consul General of Ireland in New York City, having previously served in the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland from 1989.

Wright Details Allure of Al Qaeda

OPC EVENT RECAP

By Charles Hack

"Al Qaeda doesn't offer anything to these young men, except for one thing, which is death," Lawrence Wright told an OPC audience on Oct. 4. "Al Qaeda is an engine that runs on the fuel of despair, futility and hopelessness."

Wright, a reporter for the *New Yorker*, spoke to the OPC to promote his mesmerizing and critically lauded new book, "The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11" [New York: Knopf]. Sharing conclusions gleaned from 600 interviews and five years of research, Wright spoke about how an organization that offers so little hope can appeal to so many.

While idealism and nihilism play a part, to dismiss terrorists purely as religious zealots ignores the economic, historical and social complexity of the Muslim and Arab world, he argued. Wright, whose second degree was awarded by American University in Cairo, said that poverty of opportunity has fueled hopelessness in the region. He said, for example, that total exports—excluding oil—of the 300 million people in the Arab world are the equivalent to the Nokia company.

"You won't be there very long before you come to understand what barren economies we are talking about," said Wright. "We are talking about a situation where young people have very little to look forward to economically, with few jobs."

Yet the isolation and marginalization experienced by immigrants across Europe—for example, Pakistanis in Britain or Moroccans in France—helps explain why Al Qaeda appeals to so many in the West. Even some second and third generation immigrants do not feel authentically British or Pakistani. "They are away from their home," said Wright. "They are more susceptible to this kind of radicalization."

Studies show that in France, Muslims account for 7 percent of the population but half of the inmates in jails and prisons. "It is not surprising that the Imams minister to the anger and alienation that these young men feel. It is not surprising that these mosques become centers of radicalization."

Yet in the United States, Muslims on

average have a higher income and lower incarceration rate than the average American. "We should feel grateful that the Muslims in the U.S. are far more integrated," Wright said.

And social isolation in Arab countries and Europe also explains why many Al Qaeda terrorists do not fit the expected profile of a terrorist. They are not the product of religious schools, but often herald from functional families and frequently have college degrees in science or engineering. Wright said many of these students have relocated from rural communities to urban universities. Organized religion steps in to provide comfort and kinship that they left behind with their families. But it also opens the door for cynical extremists and ideologues to prey on the vulnerable.

Al Qaeda's leaders insist that people flock to the group because of ideology, but Wright's own observations in Saudi Arabia and Egypt suggest that a paucity of civil society and open exchange of ideas has more to do with radicalization.

While researching the book, Wright went to the heart of one of the most insular of Wahhabi societies, Saudi Arabia. After spending a year and four months trying in vain to get a journalist's visa, he instead managed to land a working visa—mentoring young journalism students in Jeddah, Osama bin Laden's hometown. "I got acquainted with Saudi society in a way I could never have done just as a reporter," Wright said.

He found a repressive government that denied its citizens the most basic social and cultural infrastructure. Young people lacked movies, theater, music, nightclubs and political parties. There were few museums, parks or other diversions beyond religion. "There was nothing between the government and the mosque except shopping," said Wright.

A study at King Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia showed that depression rates were through the roof, at around 67 percent among girls in a study, Wright said. Seven percent had attempted suicide. A contributing factor may be "gender apartheid," which Wright experienced first hand. The male and female journalism students where he taught were separated in different rooms. He was permitted to address the women just one day a week. Wright said social interaction between the sexes is good for well-being.

"It's not so easy to be a terrorist when your girlfriend won't let you," Wright said.

But an analysis would not be complete without providing some historical context, Wright said. Many terrorists believe that they are revenging a historical injustice. That mindset stems as far back as Sept. 11, 1683, the date that the Polish King Jan III Sobieski arrived to end the siege by the Ottomans at the gates of Vienna. It also marks the start of the great Islamic empire's decline into "sullen isolation."

"Every Muslim knows they once had a great empire and they have now lost it," said Wright. "They want to reclaim that heritage and they don't know exactly how to go about it."

There is also an economic dependency on the West. Most consumer products available in Saudi Arabia are imported and most "cultural achievements" happen outside the Arab region. This helps account for why the wealthy and powerful Osama Bin Laden talks so often of humiliation, and why Fox News and Al Jazeera can have such opposing views of the Iraq war. The U.S. news channel portrayed the Iraq invasion as liberation, while Al Jazeera saw it as a humiliation of the Iraqi people.

"This sense of humiliation is augmented by a pervasive feeling of weakness and dependency," said Wright. But placing any hope of vindication or cultural rebirth in Al Qaeda is misguided he said. Al Qaeda offers no policy for education, the environment or economic rebirth of the region. "It really is the absence of any kind of hope," said Wright. "They don't have a plan for the future."

In his book, Wright describes, in gripping prose, the history of Islamic terrorism. He describes how Islamic militants forced the Soviet Union to leave Afghanistan, formed Al Qaeda, and were organized under Osama bin Laden. The leader managed to unite the radicals against a perceived enemy—the United States.

He also explains how successful strikes by Al Qaeda against U.S. embassies in Africa and the USS Cole emboldened the terrorists. Meanwhile, poorly coordinated, bureaucratic and competitive U.S. intelligence agencies failed to follow leads and join the dots between a string of clues.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

BAGHDAD: Gunmen, some wearing police uniforms, stormed the new satellite television station Al Shabbiya at 7am on Oct. 12 and killed 11 employees, some of whom were asleep. "It was the most deadly attack on members of the Iraqi news media since the 2003 invasion," *The New York Times* reported. Also, the body of radio journalist **Azad Mohammad Hussein** was identified Oct. 11. He was kidnapped on Oct. 3 in Baghdad. The Journalistic Freedoms Observatory, an Iraqi group, said more than 130 journalists, most of them Iraqis, have been killed in Iraq since the start of the 2003 invasion. The Committee to Protect Journalists, which requires more evidence to verify killings, said 80 journalists, 59 of them Iraqi, have been killed in Iraq since the war started.

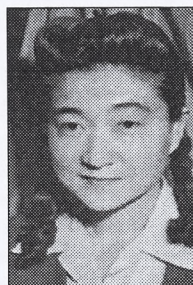
◆ "It was mind boggling to be in the same room as Saddam." That's what **Rawya Rageh** wrote after covering a session of Saddam Hussein's trial. Rawya, who won this year's OPC Foundation Dan Eldon Scholarship and now is an AP correspondent, wrote: "At one point, I was standing in the corner of the press gallery with two Western television journalists—both women—when Saddam was escorted out of the courtroom, presumably to the bathroom. On his way back, he looked us straight in the eye and smiled. I was so awestruck it took me a few minutes to get back to 'reporting mode.'"

◆ **Mohammed Munaf**, 53, an Iraqi native who became a U.S. citizen in 2000, has been sentenced to death by an Iraqi court on charges he assisted in the 2005 kidnapping of three Romanian journalists. He went to Iraq last year to act as translator and guide for the Romanian journalists, who were kidnapped by Iraqis and held for 55 days, as was Munaf (July/August 2005 *Bulletin*). Although he was tried in an Iraqi court, Munaf is being held by the American military at Camp Cropper near Baghdad International Airport. In October, his lawyer asked a U.S. Federal Court in Washington to prevent his transfer from American military custody to the Iraqi

government. The lawyer argued that his death sentence undermined the U.S. promise that he would be in no danger of physical abuse if he was moved to Iraqi custody. The Romanian journalists worked for Prima TV, part of the Romanian Satellite Network. Five Iraqi co-defendants in the case also received death sentences.

CAPE ELIZABETH, Maine: "I spent a weekend with Tokyo Rose," OPC member **John Rich** told "People" after **Iva Toguri** died Sept. 26 at age 90 in a Chicago hospital. Convicted of treason against the United States, Toguri, an American citizen, was known as Tokyo Rose for her World War II broadcasts on Radio Tokyo to U.S. troops in the Pacific. Tokyo Rose was the name GIs attached to a dozen or so women who broadcast from Radio Tokyo, telling U.S. servicemen that their cause was lost and their sweethearts back home were being unfaithful to them. Toguri was known to be the only American among the women who were called Tokyo Rose. During part of 1946, Toguri was held by the U.S. Occupation in Tokyo's Sugamo Prison but released after the U.S. Army and Justice Department concluded there were no grounds for prosecuting her. "Many reporters were waiting outside the Sugamo gate to interview her when she left," Rich, who was an INS correspondent at that time, said. "I got to her first and told her I could get her away from these terrible reporters. She and her husband hopped into my INS jeep. I gunned the jeep away and got the hell out of that place, and we sped down to a seaside vacation house south of Tokyo. While there she told me that she did broadcast from Tokyo but nothing bad against the United States."

After returning to the United States, Toguri was arrested on charges of treason, tried and convicted in 1949, and served six years in a federal penitentiary. After her release she ran an Asian grocery store and gift shop in Chicago. During that time, Rich attended a military



Iva Toguri in 1945

reunion in Texas, and he was asked to invite Toguri to attend. "I telephoned her in Chicago and said, 'I'm John Rich, do you remember me?'" "Oh, yes," she replied. We chatted but she turned down the invitation to Texas." Toguri, a 1940 graduate of the University of California in Los Angeles who hoped to become a medical doctor, had gone to Tokyo in the summer of 1941 to visit an ailing aunt, and was stranded there when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. She joined Domei, then Japan's national news agency. In 1945, she married **Felipe D'Aquino**, a Portuguese-Japanese journalist at Domei. He returned to Japan after Toguri's trial, and she never saw him again. President Ford pardoned her in 1977.

DUSSELDORF: **Galima Bukharbaeva**, who won this year's OPC Foundation I. F. Stone Scholarship, is working in Germany as an editor at the online international service on Uzbekistan, www.uznews.net. Now exiled from her native Uzbekistan, Galima won her scholarship with her eyewitness account of the 2005 massacre in the Uzbek city of Andijan. The Uzbek government labeled her a terrorist for covering the massacre for the international press.

ISLAMABAD: **Khalid Shaikh Mohammed**, who is accused of masterminding the 9/11 attacks, also took part in the 2002 murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter **Daniel Pearl** in Karachi, according to Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's book, "The Line of Fire" [New York: Free Press], which was released this autumn. The president wrote: "The man who may have actually killed Pearl or at least participated in his butchery, we eventually discovered, was none other than Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, Al Qaeda's No. 3." Mohammed now is in U.S. custody in Guantánamo Bay.

ISTANBUL: **Hrant Dink**, editor of the Armenian-language newspaper *Agos*, was charged in September with the crime of "insulting Turkishness." Some 60 other writers and publishers have been charged under the law, which was adopted last year. Its provisions include bans against discussing the Kurdish rebellion or using the word genocide to describe mass killing and relocation of Armenians during World War I. Although Dink faces the prospect of three years in prison, **Ian Fisher** of *The New York*

(Continued on Page 6)

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 5)

Times quoted him as saying the case against him "is something good for Turkey. It is good for the dynamism. There is a strong movement from inside, and I can say for the first time we are seeing a real democratic movement."

KABUL: Gunmen ambushed and killed German journalists **Christian Struwe**, 38, and **Karen Fischer**, 30, Oct. 7 after they pitched a tent on a road near a village in northern Afghanistan. The freelancers were working on a documentary for the state-owned broadcast news outlet Deutsche Welle.

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee: Just after the war between Israel and Hezbollah started in August, OPC member **Ronda Robinson**, a former correspondent in Israel, made reservations to fly to Israel "to show solidarity with Israel," she reported to "People." "By the time we arrived, the war was over. We helped make care packages for the soldiers who were still out in the field. My friends live in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, so everyone was fine. However, because Israel is such a small country, practically everyone was affected in one way or another." Robinson said the Mideast Press Club held a panel discussion on how the media covered the war. The panel included Israeli and Palestinian journalists and reporters from *The New York Times*, the AP and Al Jazeera.

LONDON: In a libel case against the *The Wall Street Journal Europe*, Britain's highest court ruled on Oct. 11 for the first time that journalists have the right to publish allegations against public figures so long as their reporting is responsible and in the public interest. **Alan Rusbridger**, editor of the *Guardian*, said the unanimous decision by the Law Lords "will lead to a greater robustness and willingness to tackle serious stories, which is what the judges said they wanted." The case involved a 2002 article published in the *WSJ* and its European edition that said Saudi Arabia, at the request of the United States, was monitoring bank accounts of Saudi businesses and individuals to trace whether they were being used to siphon money, perhaps unwittingly, to terrorist groups. One of the businesses named in the article, Abdul Latif Jameel Company Ltd., sued the newspaper for libel as did

its general manager and president, Muhammed Abdul Latif Jameel. **Sarah Lyall** of *The New York Times* explained: "Under British libel law, newspapers being sued are required to prove the truth of the allegations they print—the opposite of the situation in the United States, where the burden of proof falls heavily on plaintiffs."

◆ **Donald Treford**, who was elected president of the International Association of Press Clubs this spring, believes that newspapers will continue to play an important role despite the growth of electronic media. Also chairman of the London Press Club, Telford said in a speech to the international group: "The nature of the media is, of course, changing fast, with new electronic methods of transmitting information challenging the pre-eminence of newspapers.... Does it matter if the press lives or dies? The answer is that it does matter because a press... performs a vital function in society.... Computers can provide raw facts more speedily than newspapers can. But they are not equipped to explain the meaning of those facts."

The International Association includes press clubs in 25 countries, including the OPC, a new member. **Sonya K. Fry**, OPC executive director, attended the International Association's May 31-June 2 meeting in London, and in a brief speech she described our club's location and activities (July/August *Bulletin*).

◆ **Caroline Hawley**, a BBC correspondent in Iraq before and after the fall of Saddam Hussein, won the London Press Club's Broadcasting Journalist of the Year award, which was presented this summer. "Despite being in constant danger, night and day, during the worse periods of the conflict, Caroline coolly and calmly delivered her bulletins with grace and growing authority," the club reported.

MEXICO CITY: Former UPI correspondent **Anthony Miller** asks if anyone knows about the dead zone in northwest Mexico from which no radio or electronic signals can be sent or received because of some physical phenomena, perhaps a huge buried meteorite. Contact him at aomiller13@yahoo.com.

NEW YORK: **Norman Schorr**, co-chair of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, is recuperating after being struck by a taxicab while leaving a New

York City hospital. He suffered multiple ankle bone fractures in the Sept. 26 accident. From his hospital bed after undergoing surgery, Norm told "People" that it was no big deal, but "I'll tell you all about it when I'm back on my feet."

◆ **Andrew Rosenthal**, a former OPC board member, will become editor of the *The New York Times* editorial page on Jan. 1, when **Gail Collins**, the first woman to run the page, takes a leave of absence to write a book on American women since 1960. Rosenthal, 50, has been deputy editor of the page since 2000 after having served as the paper's assistant managing editor, foreign editor and national editor. Before joining the *Times*



Andrew Rosenthal



Gail Collins

in 1987, he was the AP's Moscow bureau chief. He is the son of the late **A. M. (Abe) Rosenthal**, a former *Times* executive editor. Collins, 60, editorial page editor since 2001, will return to the *Times* in July as a columnist on its Op-Ed page. *Times* publisher **Arthur O. Sulzberger Jr.** called Rosenthal "a born editorial writer" who has written some of the paper's "most powerful and insightful editorials." Rosenthal's editorials have strongly criticized the Bush administration on intelligence and civil liberties issues and military affairs.

◆ OPC member **Mark Whitaker** put out 400 issues of *Newsweek* during his eight years as the magazine's editor. In his final issue, dated Oct. 9, he wrote: "Sadly we live in a time when more and more people seem interested only in news and opinion that supports their pre-existing beliefs. I hope this is a passing symptom of today's angry political climate, because for all the flaws of the 'mainstream media' I think we would all find that, like George Bailey in 'It's a Wonderful Life,' this country would be a lot worse off without it."

Whitaker mentioned some of the "passionate, committed journalists" he worked with at *Newsweek*, including OPC member **Melinda Liu**: "I'll remem-

ber Melinda Liu, our veteran foreign correspondent, demanding to stay in Baghdad for the 'shock and awe' bombing attack, when most U.S. reporters had pulled out, and writing such powerful e-mails that I made her personal diary the heart of our coverage package."

Whitaker moved to a new post, vice president and editor-in-chief of new ventures for the website Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive, the digital division of The Washington Post Company, owners of *Newsweek* (October *Bulletin*).

An article on the future of Yemen written by **Gregory D. Johnsen**, winner of the OPC Foundation's Schweisberg Scholarship this year, was published in the October edition of *The American Interest*. Johnsen now is a Ph.D. candidate in history and Middle Eastern and Islamic studies at New York University. A former Fulbright fellow in Yemen who speaks Arabic, Johnsen wrote his scholarship essay on presidential politics in Yemen's fledgling democracy.

OPC member **Mark Morrison**, a former managing editor of *BusinessWeek*, is retiring after 32 years with the magazine and plans to return to Austin, Texas in January to teach journalism at his alma mater.

"I heard a terrible thud. The smoke outside my windows was unbelievable. It was frightening." That's how OPC member **Rosalind Massow** described the crash of a small airplane into an East Side apartment building Oct. 11, killing the two men aboard, New York Yankee pitcher Cory Lidle and his flight instructor. Rosalind's apartment is on the 21st floor of the adjacent building, and the plane hit the apartment in the building next door on the 41st floor. Rosalind's place escaped damage, "but if the wind had been blowing from a different direction, my balcony would have been littered with debris," she told "People."

The Committee to Protect Journalists in November will honor four journalists from Colombia, Yemen, The Gambia and Iraq who risked their lives to report the news while withstanding attacks, harassment and imprisonment. They were selected for the Committee's 2006 International Press Freedom Awards, to be given at a ceremony in the Waldorf-Astoria that also marked the Committee's

25th anniversary. Honored are **Jesús Abad Colorado**, a freelance photographer who covered violent clashes in Colombia's civil war and was kidnapped twice by leftist guerrillas; **Jamal Amer**, editor of Yemen's independent weekly *Al-Wasat*, who was kidnapped and beaten by four men believed to be security agents who accused him of being paid by the U.S. and Kuwaiti governments and warned him about defaming officials; **Madi Ceesay**, an independent Gambian journalist who has suffered attacks and imprisonment for his work; and, posthumously, **Atwar Bahjat**, a correspondent for Iraq's Al-Arabiya satellite television network who was gunned down along with her cameraman and engineer in February while covering the bombing of the Shiite Golden Mosque near Samarra.

The Committee will also present its Burton Benjamin Memorial Award to **Hodding Carter III** "for a lifetime of distinguished achievement in the cause of press freedom." Carter worked for 18 years as a reporter, editorial writer, editor and associate publisher of his family's daily newspaper, the *Delta Democrat-Times* in Greenville, Mississippi; served as an assistant U.S. secretary of state; and was president and CEO of the Knight Foundation.

The International Women's Media Foundation honored three women journalists with its 17th annual Courage in Journalism Awards at an October lunch in the Waldorf-Astoria. Awards went to **Jill Carroll**, *The Christian Science*



Elena Poniatowska Amor



Jill Carroll



May Chidiac



Gao Yu

Monitor correspondent who was held captive in Iraq for 82 days; **May Chidiac**, a Lebanese Broadcasting reporter who survived a car bomb attack; and **Gao Yu**, a pro-democracy reporter in China who was sentenced to six years in prison for "leaking state secrets." The Foundation presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to **Elena Poniatowska Amor**, a journalist and author in Mexico.

In the 1960s before she became the *New York Post* gossip columnist, **Cindy Adams** spent 11 months in Indonesia interviewing President Sukarno for her book "Sukarno: An Autobiography as Told to Cindy Adams." On Sept. 15, Cindy celebrated her 25 years writing for
(Continued on Page 8)

Call for Entries— 2006 UNCA Awards

The UN Correspondents Association invites media worldwide to submit entries for its 11th Annual UNCA Awards for best written and electronic media coverage of the United Nations, its agencies and field operations. Investigative work is welcomed. Work published between Sept. 31, 2005 and Sept. 31, 2006 will be considered. There are no entry fees of any kind for submissions.

The UNCA Awards include the \$10,000 Elizabeth Neuffer Memorial Prize for written media (including online media), the \$10,000 Ricardo Ortega Memorial Prize for broadcast journalism, and a \$10,000 prize for any entry in any medium that best covers the humanitarian and development aspects of the UN and its agencies. Secretary General Kofi Annan will present the prizes at the UNCA Awards Dinner at UN Headquarters in New York on Dec. 8, 2006. The deadline for entries is Nov. 1, 2006.

Mail, registered or couriered packages should be sent to: Ian Williams, Chairman, UNCA Awards Committee, 347 East 53rd Street, #2A, New York, NY 10022 USA (tel: 212-686-8884). Scanned or email entries should be sent to him at uswarreport@igc.org.

PEOPLE

(Continued from Page 7)

the *Post*, and New York City rolled out the red carpet. For one day, Central Park's Bethesda Fountain was named for her, Coney Island's Cyclone bore her name and the New York Aquarium in Brooklyn renamed a shark for her ("no explanation required," the *Post* wrote). In high heels and a pinstriped pantsuit, Cindy threw out the first pitch at the Sept. 17 Yankee-Red Sox game in Yankee Stadium. Yankee Manager Joe Torre told her, "The ball can fall to earth quickly, so aim high." She did, right into catcher Sal Fasano's glove.

PHNOM PENH: Bernie Krisher, a longtime news magazine correspondent in Asia, is offering future winners of OPC Foundation scholarships an internship in the newspaper that he publishes, the *Cambodia Daily*. The first internship will be awarded next year. The AP also awards scholarship winners an internship in its Bangkok bureau, headquarters for its Asian operations.

ROME: OPC member Dennis Redmont has studied how technology and different ethical standards affect the reporting of terrorist acts in the United States and Europe. His study was described this summer in an article published in the magazine *Aspenia*. Redmont wrote to the *Bulletin*: "The article looks at the way that the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the Madrid and London bombings were presented very differently in media systems around the world, with varying levels of sensitivity, and the reasons for this."



Dennis Redmont

In October, Redmont delivered the annual George Sammut Memorial Lecture at the University of Malta in October, speaking on new technologies in the media and implications for journalist ethics. Redmont, who headed AP operations in the Mediterranean area for more than 25 years, now is head of communications, media and development at the Council for the United States and Italy.

WASHINGTON: Fordham University alumni in the Washington area met in the Cosmos Club to give its 2006

annual award to **Barrett McGurn**, OPC president from 1963-1965. McGurn told "People:" "The gratuitous joke here is that the Cosmos Club has the brains, the Metropolitan Club has the money and the Army-Navy Club has neither. As a Purple Heart veteran, the 1944 battle for Bougainville in the Pacific, I do deplore the joke!"

IN MEMORY

Jack Martin Fleischer, 91, a World War II correspondent, died Oct. 6 in Morrilton, Arkansas. Growing up in Wisconsin, Fleischer learned German from his grandfather and was living in Berlin in 1939 when the war started. He covered the war for United Press from Germany until the Nazis held him and other journalists and diplomats in a hotel for five months. After he was repatriated, he was based with UP in Stockholm, where he continued to cover the war, traveling around Europe in a Jeep. He joined the U.S. State Department after the war, spending 20 years at various posts in Europe. He also became editor-in-chief of *Die Neue Zeitung*, an American-sponsored newspaper.

◆ Another **R. W. Apple Jr.** article about his romance with food was published in *The New York Times* Travel Section Oct. 1. Singapore, he wrote, "has gastronomic attractions aplenty. Start with its unmatched street food—chili crabs and chicken rice, laksa and satah and fish head curry—served in hundreds of hawkers' stalls." Three days after the article appeared, Johnny Apple, 71, died of thoracic cancer in his Washington, DC home. Few newspaper reporters covered such a wide global canvas as did Apple. From more than 100 countries, Apple wrote about war, revolution, politics, government, and food and drink. He covered the Vietnam War, the Iranian Revolution, the Persian Gulf War and the Falklands War; the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II; conflicts in Biafra; 10 U.S. presidential elections; and elections in France and Spain. Apple won 1967 OPC and George Polk awards for his Vietnam reporting and then plunged into the war-fueled turmoil of the 1968 presidential campaign at home. During more than 40 years as a *Times* correspondent and editor, Apple was bureau chief in Albany, Lagos, Nairobi, Saigon, Moscow, London and Washington.

In recent years, he roamed the globe



Johnny Apple in Galatoire's Restaurant, New Orleans

like a tourist and, as the *Times* reported, "wrote about the topics that really compelled him—bourbon and bacon, potatoes and tomatoes, langoustines and mangosteens, barbecue and Bouillabaisse, New Orleans and New Zealand." For his 70th birthday, he gathered friends at his favorite restaurant, Chez L'Ami Louis in Paris, for foie gras, roast chicken, escargots, scallops, pommes Anna, burgundy and Calvados. In a 2000 dispatch from Bangkok, he wrote: "I'm a big-time mangosteen addict, which presents problems. The mangosteen—a tropical fruit about the size of a tangerine, whose leathery maroon shell surrounds moist, fragrant, snow-white segments of ambrosial flesh—can't get a visa. Mangosteens may not legally be imported into the United States....No other fruit, for me, is so thrillingly, intoxicatingly luscious....I'd rather eat one than a hot fudge sundae, which for a big Ohio boy is saying a lot."

Apple joined the *Times* in 1963 after working for *The Wall Street Journal* and NBC News, and he quickly became one of the highest paid reporters on *The Times* local staff. After his death, the paper wrote: "He remained a colorful figure as new generations of journalists around him grew more pallid, and his encyclopedic knowledge, grace of expression—and above all his expense account—were the envy of his competitors, imitators and peers." Former UPI London bureau manager **Mike Keats** recalled that in 1977 **Arthur O. Sulz-**



Apple in Vietnam, 1966

berger Jr., then an AP correspondent, was drinking with friends in the Witness Box, a London pub. Sulzberger, now the *Times*' publisher, said he had dined the previous night in Apple's apartment, adding, "Did you know he has a butler on permanent staff? How does he get away with that?"

Two days before Apple died, **Elizabeth Becker**, his former *Times* colleague, and her husband Bill visited the sick Apple. Bill said he was leaving that afternoon for Romania. Although he had not been in that country in a decade, Apple immediately launched into a description of several Romanian churches and rattled off their names. In a memo to the staff, *Times* Executive Editor **Bill Keller** described Apple's last days: "From his sickbed he hammered out his last words to readers...negotiated details of the menu and music for his memorial service, followed the baseball playoffs and the latest Congressional scandal with relish, and cheered up the friends who came by to cheer him up."

Evan Thomas, *Newsweek*'s editor-at-large, wrote of Apple: "He never won a Pulitzer, and he couldn't really be a role model. He was one of a kind." In *Time*, Senator **John McCain** wrote: "The veranda bar of [Saigon's] Hotel Continental, known affectionately as the Continental Shelf, was among his regular haunts and boasted a very colorful cast of characters. He was among the most colorful—generous, imperious, obstinate, quick-witted, contentious and great company."

How did Raymond Walter Apple Jr. view a reporter's life? He once told *Lear*'s magazine, "Newspaper people love impossible dreams. I suppose we're reckless sentimentalists. If we didn't love impossible dreams, we would not still be working in an industry whose basic technology was developed in the 16th and 17th centuries."

Brian Bell, 80, a former correspondent in South America and later a U.S. diplomat, died of brain cancer Oct. 5 at his home in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He joined the AP in 1956 and was a correspondent in Buenos Aires. In 1960, Bell began his diplomatic career with the U.S. Information Service, serving in Mexico City, Karachi, Tehran, Dacca, Lagos and Santiago. He retired in 1987. A star athlete in high school and college, he played football briefly after college with the Washington Redskins and the Detroit

Lions. He was offered a \$5,000 bonus contract with the New York Giants baseball organization when a knee injury ended his professional sports career.

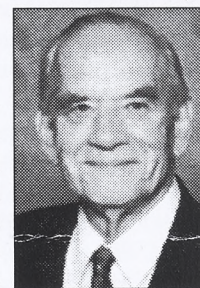
Zander (Zan) Hollander, 75, a former correspondent in Europe, died Oct. 3 of respiratory failure at a Washington, DC hospital. In 1953 after a brief stint as a copy boy at *The Washington Post*, Hollander accepted an invitation from the Soviet government to visit the Soviet Union with a group of student newspaper editors. They were in Russia shortly after Joseph Stalin's death, and Hollander reported on his experiences for the Associated Press. After reporting on the 1956 Hungarian uprising for United Press International when he was a Fulbright Scholar in Berlin, he became a reporter and city editor at the *Northern Virginia Sun*. From 1960-1975, he was a UPI correspondent in Frankfurt, Berlin, Rome, Tel Aviv and London. In 1976 he joined the U.S. Department of Energy as an information specialist, retiring in 2000.

Vincent Alexander Finnigan, 88, a former photo correspondent for the European Keystone Press, died Oct. 1 of a stroke in Venice, Florida. From the 1940s-2001, Finnigan was based in Washington, DC, while photo assignments took him to Asia, Australia, South America, Europe and around North America. Finnigan founded the annual high school photo seminar that features classes taught by professional photographers and offers tips on careers in photography. The seminars are sponsored by the White House News Photographers Association, of which he was a longtime member.

After suffering with pulmonary fibrosis for four years, **Bob Schnitzlein**, 72, a past news photo manager in Hong Kong and Washington, died Sept. 26 at his home in Kendall Park, New Jersey. He started his photojournalism career in 1950 with Acme Newspictures in New York. After service in the U.S. Navy, he joined UPI as a photographer in Tennessee. He was assigned to UPI's international picture desk in New York in 1960, and moved to Hong Kong in 1971 as the wire service's Asia Division photo editor. He covered the Vietnam War and the release of American POWs. He made four trips to Communist China, one in 1972 with then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger before President

Nixon's historic visit to China later that year. Schnitz, as friends called him, joined the *Chicago Sun-Times* as managing photo editor in 1984, and later that year moved to Washington to become the first news picture editor of Reuters after it took over UPI's international photo operations. He retired in 1997. During his career, Bob covered eight Olympic Games, two U.S. presidential campaigns and inaugurations, four World Cups, terrorist attacks, Papal visits, international summits and other major stories. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Angela, and their five sons.

The Rev. **Amos Purnell Bailey** wrote the column "Our Daily Bread" for *Pacific Stars and Stripes* while serving on General Douglas MacArthur's staff in Tokyo after World War II. When Japan's former Prime Minister Hideki Tojo attempted to commit suicide, Bailey helped medics transport Tojo to a hospital where he recuperated. Tojo was tried for war crimes and executed. Bailey was a chaplain with the 1st Calvary Division during the war. His column later appeared in more than 100 newspapers. After undergoing surgery for thyroid cancer in March, he died at age 88 on July 16 while on his way to church in Fredericksburg, Virginia.



Rev. Amos P. Bailey

Norman G. Cornish, 78, a staffer on *Pacific Stars and Stripes* in Tokyo in 1952-1953, died of pneumonia June 27 in a Maryland hospital. He was a reporter for the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and UPI before becoming a U.S. Congressional investigator in 1964. He retired in 1983.

Clive Upton, 95, a former political cartoonist on Britain's *Daily Sketch* and *Sunday Graphic* whose World War II drawings were widely reproduced on wartime patriotic posters, died Feb. 11 at his home in London. His best known works were "This Is the Year," a prophetic D-Day landings drawing, and "We Kneel Only to Thee," an illustration of a soldier kneeling in church.

NOTE: E-mail your "People" items to albertkaff@aol.com or post to Al Kaff, 393 Unquowa Road, Fairfield, CT 06824-5028.

Using and Misusing the Images of 9/11

OPC EVENT RECAP

By Doug Merlino

"We all have our own 9/11 story. We all felt part of this bigger narrative," said David Friend, opening his Sept. 21 book talk at the OPC.

About one-third of the human race—2.5 billion people—watched the events of 9/11 as they happened. In his new book, "Watching the World Change: The Stories behind the Images of 9/11" [New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux], Friend—an OPC member and creative director of *Vanity Fair*—details the technological advances that made the horrific communal experience possible, the tales of the people who took and were in the photos we all saw, and the way those images have been used for good and ill.

Chief among these was the photo of three firemen raising the American flag on the wreckage of the World Trade Center. That photo has become the most widely seen image of the decade, having appeared on, among other things, 255 million postage stamps. At the same time, the image has been appropriated by ideologues. "There is an absurd back story about how people misused this image," Friend said.

The release of Friend's book also exposed a seemingly less heroic image to a brief flurry of media attention—the photo shows a group of young people who appear to be relaxing and chatting in a park in Brooklyn while the towers smoke behind them. *New York Times*



OPC members support David Friend at his Book Night: photographer Harry Benson; OPC President Marshall Loeb; David Friend; author and photographer Audrey Topping and Seymour Topping, retired Pulitzer Prize Board administrator; and Benoit Payeur of Quebec Government House.

columnist Frank Rich used the photo to make a point about Americans wanting to forget about and move on from tragedy, Friend noted. But when Friend spoke to one of the women in the photo, she objected, saying that she and the others were seriously discussing what had just happened.

The story after 9/11 has involved constant reinterpretation of images. Discussing an iconic photo of President Bush speaking through a megaphone at Ground Zero, Friend said "we had to see our surrogate, the president, at ground zero, even if it was staged, even if it was

managed. But then that image was misused, in many mailings by the Republican Party, used at the Republican National Convention."

Osama bin Laden has used myth-making images in the same way. "He conceived 9/11 for us to see it. Terrorism needs frightened eyes to fan the fury," Friend said. Pointing to a photo of Bin Laden dressed in camouflage, strolling on a mountain path, Friend observed: "Bin Laden doesn't exist except in his image.... This is not Bin Laden on the run, but Bin Laden on high, the spiritual leader, out for a walk."

POLITKOVSKAYA

(Continued from Page 1)

dropped his pistol at her side, the signature of a contract killing in Russia. A security camera recorded a man in dark clothing and a baseball cap running from the building.

Russians mourned. A small mountain of flowers grew outside Politkovskaya's apartment. At an impromptu rally in downtown Moscow, a poster proclaimed, "The Kremlin has killed freedom of speech." Former president Mikhail Gorbachev, a stockholder in her newspaper, *Novaya Gazeta*, called the killing "a grave crime against the country, against all of us." *Novaya Gazeta* offered a reward of 25 million rubles (about \$930,000) for information leading to the

killer. Her funeral drew thousands, including several ambassadors—but no high Russian officials. Journalistic groups and governments denounced the murder and called for investigations.

In the OPC's letter of protest to Putin, the Freedom of the Press Committee pointed out that at least 12 other journalists, including Paul Klebnikov, editor of *Forbes Russia*, had been killed since Putin came to power. "Anna Politkovskaya's death must end this sorry record," the letter said. "We call on you to order not just the usual desultory investigation of this crime, but a full and genuine hunt for the killer and for whoever gave the orders. In view of the record of failure of similar past probes, there will be no credibility in any investigation that is not fully transpar-

ent. We urge you to invite respected independent investigators from the international community to take part in the search for Ms. Politkovskaya's killers, giving them full access to whatever evidence turns up. And this investigation must go back to probe all the unsolved murders, including Klebnikov's."

But Putin said nothing about the killing for two full days, until he promised U.S. President George W. Bush that there would be "an objective investigation into the tragic death." Later, however, Putin hinted that his answer was already in the works. "We have information," he said in a panel discussion, "that several people hiding from the law were looking for a victim to start a wave of anti-Russian sentiment in the world."

NEW BOOKS

(Continued from Page 12)

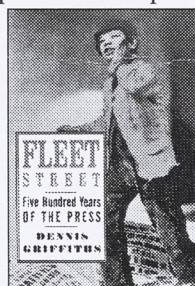
Life magazine that Americans saw in Madame Chiang 'someone whom they were able to understand—not a remote and esoteric creature who might have stepped from a Chinese fan, but a modern woman, a woman who is at home in any country; and, through her, China has for millions of Americans suddenly become a modern nation.'...To many Chinese, on the other hand, her popularity in America was disturbing, even disgusting, as though she was pandering to Americans, figuratively prostituting herself—and by extension China—to obtain aid for a feminized, emasculated China."



Madame Chiang
Kai-Shek

EUROPE

FOR MANY YEARS, **Dennis Griffiths** was production director of Britain's Express Newspapers. Several years ago, he gave up chairmanship of the London Press Club and moved to Cornwall. But not to retire. He wrote two books on the history of English media that were published this year. In *"Fleet Street: Five Hundred Years of the Press"* [London: British Library], he researched the early days of printing and newspaper production. In a review in *PressNews*, the journal of the London Press Club, **Donald Trelford** wrote: "At a time when the words 'journalism' and 'literature' seem to be almost a contradiction in terms, he shows how the earliest successful journalists—Daniel Defoe, Dr. Johnson, William Cobbett, Joseph Addison and Richard Steele—were among the finest writers and thinkers of their day."



Fleet Street
book jacket

In Griffiths' second book, *"A History of the NPA"* [London: Newspaper Publishers Association], he writes that the Newspaper Proprietors Association, now the Newspaper Publishers Association, was founded in 1906 to fight the growing power of the print unions. The unions failed for most of the past century. "As Dr. Griffiths shows," Trelford wrote in his review, "this was partly because their

rivalry prevented them taking effective collective action, and partly because the unions were so unreasonable, politically driven and sometimes, it has to be said, downright corrupt."

WHEN HE WAS A BOY, some of **Daniel Mendelsohn's** older relatives would cry when he entered the room—he reminded them of his great-uncle Shmiel, who, along with his wife and four daughters, was a Holocaust victim in Poland. Though Mendelsohn took on the role of "family historian," the exact fate of **Daniel Mendelsohn** Shmiel and his family remained unknown to him. After his grandfather's death, Mendelsohn—now a contributor to *The New York Review of Books*—read a stash of letters from Shmiel that illuminated his great uncle's desperate efforts to save his family as World War II approached. Mendelsohn then put an extraordinary effort into unearthing their stories, which he tells in *"The Lost: A Search for Six of the Six Million"* [New York: HarperCollins]. He twice travels back to Shmiel's town, Bolechow, now in Ukraine, and makes trips to countries including Israel, Australia and Sweden to interview relatives and other survivors. Slowly, a picture emerges of Shmiel and his family—his pride in his butcher business, the girls' attractiveness, the way one daughter carried her books.



Daniel Mendelsohn

Ron Rosenbaum writes in *The New York Times*: "Mendelsohn...has found a form at once hugely ambitious yet intensely engaging in its humility. He attempts to rescue from oblivion a single family's fate. And in his quest for the details that endow them with life, he draws us more deeply into the experience of the larger catastrophe than we might have thought possible....in the end, his investigation narrows dramatically to seek the truth of a single act, a single decision involving hiding and betrayal. 'The saviors,' Mendelsohn says, 'were, in their way, as inexplicable and mysterious to me as the betrayers.' Why did some help and some betray? The disclosure of the solution to this mystery takes on a powerfully suspenseful momentum as all of the evidence and eyewitnesses of the virtual and real Bolechow are focused upon bringing the truth to the surface. It

is one story, and yes, 'the Holocaust is so big.' But Daniel Mendelsohn has invented a unique way of making it, once again, all too real."

MIDDLE EAST

"FROM INSIDE THE GREEN ZONE," the real Baghdad—the checkpoints, the bombed-out buildings, the paralyzing traffic jams—could have been a world away," **Rajiv Chandrasekaran** writes in *"Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq's Green Zone"* [New York: Knopf]. The author, an assistant managing editor of *The Washington Post*, spent nearly two years reporting from Iraq for the paper. He describes reaction outside the Green Zone: "Freed from the grip of their dictator, the Iraqis believed that they should have been free to chart their own destiny, to select their own interim government and to manage the reconstruction of their shattered nation. Their country wasn't Germany or Japan, a thoroughly defeated World War II aggressor to be ruled by the victorious. Iraqis needed help—good advice and ample resources—from a support corps of well-meaning foreigners, not a full-scale occupation with imperial Americans cloistered in a palace of the tyrant, eating bacon and drinking beer, surrounded by Gurkhas and blast walls."



Rajiv
Chandrasekaran

AFTER REPORTING FROM IRAQ for three months in 2003, *New York Times* business reporter **Alex Berenson** wrote *"The Faithful Spy"* [New York: Random House], a novel with action in Afghanistan, the Northwest Frontier and Iraq. The lead character is John Wells. Disguised as a Muslim convert and American turncoat, Wells seeks to understand Osama bin Laden's terror network so the CIA can destroy it. "Mr. Berenson gives himself plenty of opportunity to ruminate—on politics, poverty, Islam, trust, courage and festering bureaucratic rivalries," arts writer and book critic **Celia McGee** wrote in a *Times* review.



Alex Berenson

New Books

GLOBAL

WHY DO SOME NATIONS emerge from oppressive governments without descending into violence while others implode? **Ian Bremmer**, head of the New York political risk consultancy Eurasia Group, tries to answer that question in "The J Curve: A New Way to Understand Why Nations Rise and Fall" [New York: Simon & Schuster]. Bremmer's theory runs like this: Imagine a J-shaped curve on a graph. The vertical axis represents stability, the horizontal axis political openness. High up on the left side of the J curve are states that are fairly stable but not open, such as North Korea, Cuba and Saudi Arabia. On the right side of the curve, which extends much higher than the left side, are nations that are both open and stable—the United States, Western Europe, Japan. Bremmer takes it as a given that the optimal place to be is high on the right side of the



Ian Bremmer

curve. But to make the transition, he argues, states must first slide down the left side of the curve into the dip, which is the curve's most unstable point. For example, when a dictatorship collapses, simmering tensions within a country can be unleashed (Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein). Some countries, such as South Africa in the 1990s, make it through the dip with visionary leadership. Some—Bremmer cites Vladimir Putin's Russia—struggle with instability and slide back up towards authoritarianism. Others, such as the former Yugoslavia, slide into catastrophe.

In a *Guardian* review, **Steven Poole** writes: "The upshot for foreign policy is simple: 'isolating' closed countries with sanctions, withdrawal of diplomacy and so on, is stupid, because that will only encourage their leaders to climb back up the left side of the curve as high as they can get, while citizens who can engage with the outside world are more likely to take matters into their own hands. The book presents its argument with compact intelligence and detailed case studies. I'm not sure how mathematically reliable the curve is, but it's certainly more useful than an 'arc of extremism.'"

ASIA

HER LIFE SPANNED THE 20TH CENTURY from 1898-2003 and was entwined with China's history from the Qing Dynasty to the end of colonialism in Hong Kong. Raised in China's powerful Soong family, May-ling Soong was educated at Wellesley College, married Nationalist Chinese leader Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, was

pitted against her own sister Ching-ling, wife of Communist China's Sun Yat-sen, and addressed the U.S. Congress in 1943 to call for American backing of the Nationalists against the Japanese invaders. She sparred with such international leaders as Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt and charmed Westerners and Chinese alike. But she also was described as a manipulative Dragon Lady who lived in luxury while Chinese citizens suffered under her husband's oppression.

Laura Tyson Li, who spent a decade in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan as a reporter for Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* and Taiwan correspondent for the *Financial Times*, has written what is described as the first biography of Madame Chiang: "Madame Chiang Kai-shek, China's Eternal First Lady" [New York: Atlantic Monthly Press]. The author wrote: "Few figures in modern history have been more extravagantly exalted or more viciously condemned.... In her final years her compatriots began to view her in a more favorable light. But in the West, where she had once been so celebrated, she died [at age 105] virtually unknown, her contribution to history relegated to a footnote."

The author continued: "America fell in love with a fantasy of China embodied by Madame Chiang Kai-shek. **Pearl S. Buck** wrote in the May 10, 1943, issue of

(Continued on Page 11)



Laura Tyson Li

JOSEPH STIGLITZ MAKING GLOBALIZATION WORK

A Conversation with
Bill Holstein
Wednesday, November 1
at 5:30pm

THE IRISH ECONOMIC MIRACLE Panel Discussion moderated by Marshall Loeb

Panelists: Nuala O'Faolain
Ted Smyth, Denis Staunton,
Breandan O'Caollai
Monday, November 13
at 5:30pm

Both programs at Club Quarters
RSVP to the OPC Office
212-626-9220

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA